

By: Canales, Lozano, Longoria, Guerra,
Lucio III

H.B. No. 2937

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of a pilot program under which a
3 licensed hospital may offer dual credit courses to public high
4 school students.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 28.0091 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 28.0091. MEDICAL DUAL CREDIT PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The
9 agency shall develop and implement a pilot program under which a
10 licensed hospital may offer dual credit courses to high school
11 students enrolled in a school district in partnership with the
12 district.

13 (b) The agency shall select up to three licensed hospitals
14 to participate in the pilot program. Each hospital selected must be
15 accredited by The Joint Commission and:

16 (1) have been issued:

17 (A) a certificate of approval to offer a program
18 of instruction by the Texas Workforce Commission under Subchapter
19 C, Chapter 132; or

20 (B) a certificate of authority to award a degree
21 for a program of study by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating
22 Board under Subchapter G, Chapter 61; or

23 (2) be accredited to offer a degree program by a
24 recognized accrediting agency, as that term is defined by Section

1 [61.003.](#)

2 (c) A licensed hospital selected under Subsection (b):

3 (1) may offer under the pilot program only dual credit
4 courses that are in the curriculum of the hospital's authorized
5 program of instruction or study or accredited degree program, as
6 applicable; and

7 (2) subject to Subdivision (1) and Subsection (d),
8 shall determine the content of each dual credit course offered
9 under the pilot program.

10 (d) A licensed hospital selected under Subsection (b) must
11 design the dual credit courses offered under the pilot program to
12 enable students to earn a variety of certifications, certificates,
13 and degrees. The available certifications, certificates, and
14 degrees must be selected based on:

15 (1) the needs of the hospital;

16 (2) the terms of the hospital's agreements with
17 partnering school districts to provide the dual credit courses
18 under the pilot program; and

19 (3) the goal of preparing students for employment in
20 the health care field.

21 (e) A student enrolled in a dual credit course offered under
22 the pilot program is entitled to the benefits of the Foundation
23 School Program for the time spent by the student on that course, in
24 accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner.

25 (f) A student may not be charged for tuition, fees, or
26 required textbooks or other instructional materials for a dual
27 credit course offered under the pilot program. The school district

1 in which the student is enrolled is responsible for the cost of the
2 student's tuition, fees, or required textbooks or other
3 instructional materials for that course to the extent that those
4 amounts are not waived by the licensed hospital offering the
5 course.

6 (g) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to
7 implement this section.

8 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018
9 school year.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.